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Cal/EPA



Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue
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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

October 18, 2005

Mike McElligott
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APPROVAL OF FINAL SITE 13 CLUSTER ENGINEERING EVALUATION/COST ANALYSIS, VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. McElligott:

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have reviewed the subject document dated September 9, 2005 which was prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. on behalf of Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB). The Site 13 Cluster covers approximately 150 acres and consists of Site 13, a former Advanced Ballistic Re-Entry System-A (ABRES-A) Launch Complex, Site 14 (ABRES-A Lake), and Site 28 (Missile Silo 395-B). The sites, referred to as Site 13C in the document, are located adjacent to one another in the northern part of VAFB and were grouped due to their proximity, shared environmental characteristics, linked operational histories, and contaminant migration pathways. Previous investigations at Site 13C documented the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in groundwater at concentrations in excess of Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).

The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) evaluates and compares alternatives for an interim removal action (IRA) to control groundwater plume migration and reduce VOC concentrations at Site 13C to drinking water MCLs. The EE/CA also includes cost estimates for the remedial alternatives, an evaluation of Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) for the IRA, and Heath and Safety Plan Addendum for Site 13C.

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Based on the comparative analysis in the EE/CA, the Air Force recommends injection of soybean oil into a series of injection wells at the Watt Road area and oxygen diffusion via iSOC™ units at the downgradient paleochannel area. The final remedy for source area(s) at Site 13C and other contaminants in groundwater will be addressed in the Feasibility Study for the site.

A Fact Sheet providing key information from the draft EE/CA and notice of a public review period was mailed on August 4, 2005. A public notice announcing the comment period was also published in the Lompoc Record Newspaper and Santa Maria Times on August 9, 2005. The 30-day comment period started on August 7, 2005 and ended on September 6, 2005. No comments were received during the public comment period and the draft final EE/CA becomes the final approved document.

DTSC and RWQCB are satisfied that their comments on the draft document have been adequately addressed and hereby approve the final EE/CA as written.

We look forward to working with you to expedite the investigation and cleanup of the sites at Vandenberg Air Force Base. If you have any questions, please contact Quang Than of DTSC at (714) 484-5352 or Linda Stone of RWQCB at (805) 542-4695.

Sincerely,



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